Grant to local bodies

671. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 25,000 crores grant for local bodies between 2005 and 2010;

(b) if so, how much would be the share of Panchayati Raj;

(c) in what manner his ministry is planning to utilize the money that it is going to get;

(d) whether any action-plan has been prepared for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, Grants amounting to Rs. 20,000 crores are payable to augment the Consolidated Funds of States to supplement the resources of Panchayats, during the period 2005—2010.

(c) The grants payable to Panchayats are released to the Consolidated Funds of States and are not released to or utilized by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj.

(d) and (e) In accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance regarding the release and utilisation of local body grants recommended by the 12th Finance Commission, Panchayati Raj Institutions are to be encouraged to take over the assets relating to water supply and sanitation and utilize the grants for repairs/rejuvenation as also operation and maintenance costs. A High-level Committee at the State level is to approve and monitor the implementation of projects in this regard.

Separate law on Panchayati Courts

672. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to draft a separate law on Panchayati Courts;